

## THE TRUE NORTHERNER.

Published Every Friday.

PAW PAW, MICH., APRIL 12, 1895.

It must have been a pleasing spectacle to see the democratic governor of Arkansas and a democratic legislator of the same state, spit in each other's faces in a hotel lobby quarrel. Bourbon chivalry and bourbon decency are marvelous qualities!

SENATOR John M. Palmer of Illinois, says "Few democrats believe in free coinage 16 to 1." In view of that assertion from such excellent authority, it is amusing to hear the local pop-gun democracy howl itself hoarse in favor of what they are pleased to term the "free coinage policy of the democratic party."

PRESIDENT Cleveland was "hot" because Rev. Mr. Lansing publicly said the president was intemperate, and in a public interview said he was glad such ministers are few. We know nothing about Mr. Cleveland's appetites, but have no hesitancy in saying that most ministers, in common with the majority of other people, rejoice that there are few such presidents as Mr. Cleveland.

THE U. S. Supreme court has "knocked out" enough of the income tax law to very materially embarrass the administration in the matter of revenue. It is to be hoped President Cleveland will invoke the aid of a republican congress in special session to enact legislation to raise money enough for governmental expenses. The only other course would seem to be to again issue bonds to the foreign syndicate according to Mr. Cleveland's agreement. This country is not a pauper, and with proper legislation there is no necessity for the borrowing of a single dollar.

THE Detroit Free Press cites a half dozen instances of wages being increased in these times of democratic plenty, but neglects to mention the fact that thousands of able-bodied men in its own state are unable to secure employment of any kind at any price. It is arrant demagoguery to pretend that the present is a time of prosperity in the United States, and any such thin deception as citing a few sporadic cases of increased wages will fail to influence our workmen or to convince them that their present condition is an improvement over that of 1892 and the years preceding.

By an equally divided court, the income tax law was half sustained and half knocked out. This leaves every judge before whom a case arising under the law shall come, free to decide for himself as to its constitutionality or unconstitutionality. Whichever way he may decide, an equally divided supreme court upholds his decision. As the law now stands, bondholders, coupon-clippers and landlords escape the tax, but the burden remains on producers and manufacturers. If you don't like such a state of affairs, charge it up to the free trade democracy. It is only one more crime against the prosperity of the country to be added to the long, black list.

COMMISSIONER of Schools O'Leary carried the county by over two thousand majority, this is of course only a tribute to the ability and enterprise Mr. O'Leary has shown in his administration of the duties of the office, and in no way reflects the actual political situation.—*Courier*.

It is very true that Mr. O'Leary did make a magnificent run, receiving a majority of 2,000 over his democratic opponent. The only reason, however, that this majority does not reflect the actual political situation in this county is that so light a vote was polled. With a full vote the majority would have exceeded 2,500. While Mr. O'Leary's excellent official record certainly did bring him some votes from outside his party, the fact that Judge Moore for supreme court justice was 2,038 votes ahead of his democratic opponent in Van Buren county shows that voters of both parties stuck pretty close to their tickets. Can the *Courier* tell of any good reason why Moore's plurality does not come pretty near to reflecting the actual political situation?

At the teachers' examination held at this place last week the following teachers were granted certificates:

2d grade—Zell Richmond, Cornelia Cox, Karl Landphers, Jesse Kingston, Ivy Harvey, Lena Flek, John Finley, Etta Davis, W. H. Palmer, Nellie Drury, Nellie M. Potts, E. S. Rider, Nellie Carney, Lena Wise, Lena Davidson.  
3d grade—Alfred T. Gooding, Harvey Newton, R. W. Poot, Fannie Schweizer, Frank Young, Edgar Allen, R. E. Allen, D. M. Allen, Oliver Chamberlain, Jessie Myers, R. B. Taylor, Emma Pugh, May Fuller, Emma Lang, Mack Smith, C. A. Simpson, Effie Bier, Cynthia Vaughn, M. V. Stodgrod, Beatie Bishop, Della Ball, Bertha Wise, Fens Lang, Lulu Wilkins, Edson Root, Elsie B. Tuttle, Bertha M. Bailey, Edith Coy, Katherine Kelano, Dora Gilly, Lizzie Bonidy, Eva Stevens, Dora Welch, Laura Wood, Hulda Mervin, Lena Butts, Margaret Bryar, Isaac Wilcox, John A. Lee, Agnes Trumbull, Maud Dickson, Bertha Merrifield, Grace M. Martin, Maud Taylor, Geo. L. Rich, Marie Clark, Darwin Palmer, Chas. Root, Edith Oaks, Mittle Wilson, Claude Harvey, Emma Bradford, W. H. Finch, Jennie Bridges, Kertie Gould, Vera Bell, Alice Balch, Gertrude Strickland, Gertie Welch, Louis McKinnis, Anna Carney, Frank E. Graves, Grace Adriance.

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## A MUSICAL MARVEL.

Blind Tom, the Pianist, and His Wonderful Talent.

The Discovery of His Remarkable Gift and Its Development—Eccentricities of the Sightless Master of the Piano.

The recent death of Gen. Bethune, the original owner of the musical negro slave boy known as "Blind Tom," has aroused much public curiosity as to the disappearance of Tom from view. The best information I have been able to obtain is that he is passing the closing days of his life in a lunatic asylum, his vagaries having taken on too dangerous a form to admit of his going freely about as heretofore.

Tom was born in Muscogee county, Ga., says a writer in Kate Field's Washington. His father's name was Mingo, and his mother was called by her owner Aunt Charity. While he was still a boy, and supposed to be a mere idiot as well as sightless, he used to conceal himself in his master's house, and after midnight creep into the parlors and play the same airs with which his young mistress had entertained her guests a few hours before, being cautious to suppress his notes by holding his foot on the soft pedal. He was soon detected, however, and reprimanded. A milder view was taken of his shortcomings when his master discovered that the boy's gift might be turned to profitable account; meanwhile, the children of the household, delighted with his marvelous powers, had not hesitated to defy the discipline of their elders and encourage him to play for them on the sly.

Besides being a remarkable player of other people's music, Tom was a composer himself. He was near enough to one of the battlefields of the civil war to catch the sounds from it, and these he wove into a piece which his manager entitled, for popular effect, "The Battle of Manassas." In it the piano is made to imitate the music of the fife and drums, the charges of the cavalry, the thunders of a battery, the groans of the wounded and dying, and all the incidents of a great fight so faithfully as to call up a panorama of the scene before the mind's eye of the listener.

One of the feats which Tom was accustomed to perform in public to the amazement of his audiences was the imitation of any piece of music performed in his hearing by a stranger. Some of these pieces made so great an impression on him that he carried them in his mind for a long period and then could reproduce them at will. A story which seems somewhat apocryphal was told me by a teacher of music in a young ladies' seminary in Maryland, representing Tom as having carried in his memory for twenty-one years, note for note, a German waltz which had been played before him by my informant in order to test his ability, and which, as far as known, he never attempted again during all that period. When I suggested that there was a possibility of Tom's having heard the same piece played by other hands in the interval and thus kept his memory refreshed, the professor assured me that this could not be so, because before playing it to Tom he had rewritten the waltz, adapting it from its original German form to one which contained a number of variations and fancy touches of his own. Tom reproduced all these incidentals with absolute faithfulness.

The theory that Tom must be of a gentle disposition because so given to music would be very misleading. Sound, rather than harmony, was what appealed to his intellect, such as it was, and his reproductions were governed by the rules of accuracy rather than inspired by artistic genius. It used to be said of him that the crying of a child afforded him keen delight, and when he could not draw forth as much sound as he wanted from his young companions by ordinary processes, he would bite and pinch them for the purpose of hearing their shrieks of pain. As he matured he developed a powerful bone frame and great muscular strength, which he exerted to the serious discomfiture of anybody who opposed his wishes. If kept away from a piano when he wanted to play, he would bang his head against the wall and throw chairs around the room. Once, while staying at a hotel on one of his concert tours, he insisted on playing a loud piece of music in the middle of the night, regardless of the comfort of the other guests. His agent attempted to check him, but was seized by Tom and thrown out of the room with great violence. On another occasion in Washington he was visited by a man whose presence was distasteful to him, and he manifested his dislike by pitching the poor fellow downstairs.

Possibly Tom's present seclusion has other reasons behind it besides his increasing eccentricities. The legal control of his time and services has been for some years the subject of litigation in the courts. Gen. Bethune turned the care of the boy over to his son at one time, and the son's wife claimed her husband's rights after the latter's death. I believe the case has never been finally settled, and it may be that one or the other party to the controversy has thought it wise to keep Tom out of sight until his fate can be decided.

### A Motorman.

On the battlefield a general must sometimes think quickly and act without hesitation. A motorman recently showed himself to be gifted with these admirable traits. In Plainfield, N. J., recently an electric car was dashing along, when the motorman saw a child balancing itself on a high window ledge. The man saw at once that the child would fall on a pile of bricks. Giving the brake a sudden turn and twisting off the current, he sprang from the platform before the car stopped, and reached the sidewalk just in time to catch the baby. Probably nothing will ever sound sweeter to him than the thanks of the child's mother, and the hearty praise bestowed on him by the occupants of the car.

## THE ARTISTS.

SAINTS on horseback are rather rare. The Bohemians have lately set up in Prague an equestrian statue to St. Wenzeslaus, who was duke of Bohemia, and was put to death in 941.

It will cost a million drachmas to put the Parthenon, the Temple of Thesus, and the other monuments in Athens damaged by last year's earthquake in a safe condition. An appeal for help will be sent out to all countries.

FRANCESCO PODESTI, the famous Italian painter, died recently in Rome. Among his best known works are "The Siege of Ancona by Barbarossa," "Francesca di Rimini," and "The Judgment of Paris." He was also a clever sculptor.

ALMA TADEMA spends about four months on one of his more finished pictures. To one that he thinks likely to be a masterpiece he is willing to give as many years, as was the case with the one recently painted for a Berlin patron. This painting the artist packed for shipment with the greatest care with his own hands.

THE Societe Nationale des Artistes, the seceders from the Salon in the Champs Elysees to the Champs de Mars, of which Puvion de Chavannes is president, has accepted the invitation to exhibit at Berlin next May at the Universal Art exhibition. The association of the old salon, over which Leon Bonnat presides, has refused.

### FADS AND FANCIES.

EMPEROR WILLIAM has another fad. He is studying telegraphy.

"INFLUENZA" is creeping into use in England, and Le Figaro prints "influenza."

Six near relatives of George H. McCalmon, of Biddeford, Me., met violent deaths—the father, grandfather, two brothers and two cousins.

AMOS MARKHAM, of Memphis, Tenn., is fond of moving. Since his marriage, in 1860, he has moved fifteen times. His twelve children were born in twelve different states.

ARCHBISHOP CORRIGAN received three thousand dollars as his fee for performing the Gould-Castellane wedding ceremony. The archbishop received the money in the shape of a check, signed by George Gould.

J. W. MILES, of Albany, Mo., claims the championship in his line of work. He has saved eighty-seven cords of wood this winter, but he is now spoiling his good work by bragging about it.

PROF. JOHN A. ZAHM, of Notre Dame university (Indiana) who is probably the foremost authority on science in the American Catholic church, has been honored by the pope with the degree of doctor of philosophy.

MRS. HETTY GREEN protests against paying taxes in New York on about \$1,543,000 money loaned by her on mortgages, but the tax department cruelly closes its ears to her appeals. She says her legal residence is in Vermont, where she pays taxes on a \$2,500 valuation.

MISS MAMIE POWDERLY, a native of Randolph, Mass., has been appointed assistant private secretary to Lady Henry Somerset. Miss Powderly accompanied Lady Henry on her tour through this country as her stenographer. Miss Powderly is now on her way to England with her employer, whom she will accompany on an extended European trip.

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The most popular makes and absolutely the best bicycles built for the money. We have a number of second hand wheels which we will sell cheap. A full supply of bicycle sundries always on hand. We make a specialty of general repairing.

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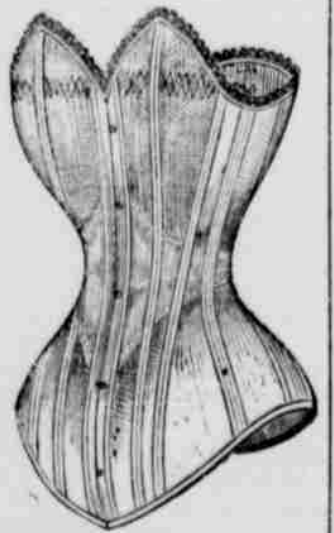
With every pair of boy's shoes selling at \$1.25 or more we give a Spaulding Ball or Bat if this ad. is mentioned. You must ask for them if you want them.

WHAT CAN A WOMAN DO?

A house wife can buy good sheeting two yards wide at one shilling a yard, making the cost of a seamless sheet 31 cents. She can buy good dress gingham at 6 cents and heavy farmer's shirting at the same price good bleached cotton, full width, for 5 cents. She can buy for her boys our famous, heavy, stout, durable stockings at 25 cents for any size. A little boy gave them a good name the other day, when he said he wanted another pair of those cast iron stockings.

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We keep almost all the staple, old reliable corsets—the tried and worthy makes—besides we have some specialties of our own. Here is a cut of one—a long waisted, high bust, up to date, \$1.25 corset, which we are selling for one dollar. These corsets give style and a perfect curve to the form and will add not a little to the fit of your new spring costume.



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We are selling the very best Ingrain carpets at 50 cents per yard. If you should pay 65 cents or more you could not get better quality or style.

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